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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/873,342	06/05/2001	Hiroto Yoshii	35.G2835	5188

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CHAU T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2176

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/873,342

Applicant(s)

YOSHII ET AL.

Examiner

Chau Nguyen

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/223/2002</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-31 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 2-3, 8, 12-13, 18, 22-23 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claims 2, 12 and 22 recite the limitation "the existence", claims 3, 13 and 23 recite "the failure", and claims 8, 18 and 28 recite "the current input time". There are insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-5, 7-15, 27-25 and 27-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paltenghe, US Patent No. 6,757,826 and further in view of Hoover, US Patent No. 6,209,102.

7. As to claims 1, 11, 21 and 33, Paltenghe discloses a signature processing method for displaying a signature on a display unit, comprising:

a determining step, of determining whether a predetermined condition is satisfied (Figs. 6&7, and col. 10, line 41 – col. 11, line 30) ; and

a control step, of displaying, when it is determined that the predetermined condition is satisfied (Figs. 6&7, and col. 10, line 41 – col. 11, line 30);

However, Paltenghe does not explicitly disclose the signature on the display unit in a manner that makes it difficult for others to discern the signature. Hoover discloses a method and apparatus for secure entry of access codes in a computer environment comprising a user inputting his access code such as PIN or Password (signature) into the computer environment to access a transaction, the user also has an option of hiding the PIN (signature) during the process of entering or selecting the PIN by clicking on the button "Hide PIN" in the computer environment (Abstract, Fig. 1 and col. 2, line 25 – col.

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3, line 10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Hoover and Paltenghe to include displaying PIN (signature) on the display device with the option of "Hide PIN" during the process of entering or selecting the PIN so it would protect the user's PIN (signature) from disclosure to an attacker who, directly or indirectly obtains the sequence of characters inputted by the user to gain access to a transaction.

8. As to claims 2, 12 and 22, Paltenghe and Hoover (Paltenghe-Hoover) disclose wherein the predetermined condition comprises the existence of an instruction given by a user to display the signature in a manner that it is difficult to discern the signature (Hoover discloses a method and apparatus for secure entry of access codes in a computer environment comprising a user inputting his access code such as PIN or Password (signature) into the computer environment to access a transaction, the user also has an option of hiding the PIN (signature) during the process of entering or selecting the PIN by clicking on the button "Hide PIN" in the computer environment (Abstract, Fig. 1 and col. 2, line 25 – col. 3, line 10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Hoover and Paltenghe to include displaying PIN (signature) on the display device with the option of "Hide PIN" during the process of entering or selecting the PIN so it would protect the user's PIN (signature) from disclosure to an attacker who, directly or indirectly obtains the sequence of characters inputted by the user to gain access to a transaction).

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9. As to claims 3, 13 and 23, Paltenghe-Hoover disclose wherein the predetermined condition comprises the failure of a user to remember a registered signature thereof (Paltenghe, Fig. 8 and col. 12, lines 31-51).

10. As to claims 4, 14 and 24, Paltenghe-Hoover disclose when it is determined that the predetermined condition is satisfied, a combination of the color of the display region of the display unit for displaying the signature and the color of the signature, which makes it difficult to discern the signature, is used (Paltenghe, col. 6, lines 27-40 and col. 8, lines 14-29).

11. As to claims 5, 15 and 25, Paltenghe-Hoover disclose wherein, when it is determined that the predetermined condition is satisfied, an image pattern is displayed on a display region of the display unit for displaying the signature (Paltenghe, col. 12, lines 31-56).

12. As to claims 7, 17 and 27, Paltenghe-Hoover disclose wherein, when it is determined that the predetermined condition is satisfied, a portion of the input signature is displayed (Paltenghe, col. 12, lines 31-56).

13. As to claims 8, 18 and 28, Paltenghe-Hoover disclose wherein the portion of the input signature includes a portion input within a predetermined period of time before the current input time (Paltenghe, col. 12, line 61 – col. 13, line 4).

14. As to claims 9, 19 and 29, Paltenghe-Hoover disclose wherein, when it is determined that the predetermined condition is satisfied, the signature is displayed in a flashing manner (Paltenghe, col. 6, lines 27-40 and col. 8, lines 14-29).

15. As to claims 10, 20 and 30, Paltenghe-Hoover disclose wherein the signature comprises coordinate data which is input using a coordinate input unit (Paltenghe, col. 12, lines 31-56).

16. Claims 6, 16 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paltenghe, US Patent No. 6,757,826 and Hoover, US Patent No. 6,209,102 as discussed in claims 1-5, 7-15, 27-25 and 27-31 above, and further in view of Powell et al. (Powell), US Patent No. 5,650,943.

17. As to claims 6, 16 and 26, Paltenghe-Hoover, however, do not explicitly disclose wherein, when it is determined that the predetermined condition is satisfied, the signature is displayed in broken lines. Powell discloses in Fig. 24A and col. 18, line 49 - col. 19, 60 that a signature is displayed as a dotted line (broken line). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Powell and Paltenghe-Hoover to include the signature is displayed in broken line so it would be hard to detect the signature.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4092. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild, can be reached at (571) 272-4090.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chau Nguyen
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2176


JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER